

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 47

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Martin O. Deschenes on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of public service have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin O. Deschenes is one such estimable person who was the founder of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute and has served with probity for several years as the Institute's second Director; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Deschenes conceived the need for an organization to promote, encourage, enhance and facilitate the learning and teaching of foreign languages and cultures for the economic, professional and educational enrichment of government, the business community, foreign language educators and the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Martin Deschenes secured the support of Senator Douglas Henry and Representative Steve Cobb to sponsor legislation creating the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute as an agency of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Institute was established with a governing board consisting of the Commissioners of the Departments of Economic and Community Development and Tourist

Development, the Chancellor of the Board of Regents of the State University and Community College System and the President of the University of Tennessee, or their designees; and three persons appointed by the Governor, the Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Commissioner of Education; and

WHEREAS, Martin Deschenes has effectively demonstrated the need for and value of instruction in language in broadening the State's international outreach and more effectively serving its increasingly diverse population; the Institute teaches over 141 world languages - more than anywhere else in the United States. Instruction in English is offered to immigrants and foreigners seeking to do business in English speaking countries, and instruction is offered in foreign languages to Americans seeking to do business abroad; and

WHEREAS, the Institute's courses are available to children and adults, both on-site and at various locations in the Nashville-Davidson County Metropolitan region; interpreters have been trained for the court system, Fort Campbell soldiers stationed in Mogadishu, Somalia were given instruction in languages found in the Horn of Africa, an Hispanic Cultural Awareness program was conducted for Metro Police at the training academy, and volunteers have been given instruction in a foreign language in return for their services in working for the Institute, to name a few of the Institute's innovative programs to promote learning a language; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Deschenes is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous national, state and local language organizations; he was one of the founders of the Nashville Chapter of the *Alliance Francaise*, which has grown from 75 members at its initial meeting to several hundred today; and

WHEREAS, Martin Deschenes is a devout and committed member of St. Henry's Catholic Church where he serves as a Deacon. As a part of that office, he is the Spiritual Director of the Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Nashville and organizes and participates in four, three-day retreats annually, as well as working with individuals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Deschenes exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he is grateful for the love and support

of his wife, Margot A. Deschenes. Together, they are the proud parents of son and daughter-in-law, Martin U. and Jennifer Vernon Deschanes, and daughter and son-in-law, Lise Deschanes and Michael Nicholl and the devoted grandparents of Elise and Samuel Deschanes and Caitlin, Cullen, Christian and Emma Nicholl; and

WHEREAS, a man of many interests, Dr. Deschanes enjoys reading and solving challenging puzzles; not surprising for one whose profession is language, he also enjoys geography, history and culture. He and his wife also spend much time with their grandchildren and attend many of their activities; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Martin Deschenes has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his professional peers and those who have benefited from the Institute's courses; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we thank Dr. Martin O. Deschenes for his valuable service to the people of Tennessee as Director of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.